

# Electronics Recycling

## S.C. Resource Conservation Challenge Workshop

October 22, 2008



# End-of-life Options

- Waste Prevention
  - Upgrading or repairing
  - Leasing
- Donation (Reuse)
- Recycling
- Treat as hazardous waste
- Non-hazardous waste determination



## DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling For Your Information...

### Electronic Recycling Options for Households

Unwanted electronics from households – such as computers, televisions and cell phones – should be managed responsibly.

In South Carolina, residents in Barnwell, Charleston, Hampton and York counties can recycle unwanted electronics in their local recycling programs. Other local programs may collect events throughout the year. For more contact your local recycling coordinator or solid waste department. For assistance in contacting your local program Department of Health and Environmental Control Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at 1-800-[www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/counties.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/counties.html)

Residents also are encouraged to take advantage of a number of recycling options for household electronics which are available through retail stores and manufacturers. Some of the programs are free and some charge a fee. Look for the best deal available.

This information is not to be considered an end retail outlet or recycling program. This information is considered complete or comprehensive. The information outlined change frequently. For the information, contact the program.

In South Carolina, businesses must follow local regulations regarding the proper management of computers, televisions and other electronic equipment. For more information, see "Cathode Ray Tubes and Electronics Management" technical assistance sheet at [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html)

#### Retail Recycling Programs for Cell Phones and Rechargeable Batteries

Some retail stores in South Carolina provide convenient for consumers who want to recycle electronics, particularly cell phones and rechargeable batteries.

- **Best Buy** provides free and easy recycling of cell phone, printer ink cartridge and rechargeable battery. Visit [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com)
- Through the **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's (RBRC) Call2Recycle™** program, including Altel, Batteries Plus, Circuit City, Lowe's, Radio Shack, Sears, Target, Wal-Mart, stores that sell batteries offer drop-offs for rechargeable batteries and unwanted cell phone accessories. Visit [www.rbrc.org/call2recycle/index.php](http://www.rbrc.org/call2recycle/index.php) or call 1-877-2-RECYCLE to find

locations. Usable phones are refurbished for donation and the rest are recycled with a portion of the proceeds given to charity.

- **Sprint's Project Connect** offers free drop-off of all brands

## COMPUTER/TELEVISION RECYCLING ADVISORY

### If you are a household...

Households are encouraged to recycle computers, televisions and other electronics. Households should check with their local government to determine what options – including donations to community groups – are available in their area. As a last resort, households are allowed to throw away electronics as part of their household waste, but this IS NOT encouraged.

Residents in many communities can recycle unwanted electronics in their local recycling programs. Some local programs accept electronics at recycling drop-off sites. Others may hold single-day collection events. For more information, visit [www.scdhec.gov/environment/wm/recycle/counties.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/wm/recycle/counties.htm)

For additional household recycling options – including take-back programs of manufacturers and retailers – see the "FYI: Electronics Recycling Options for Households" fact sheet at [www.scdhec.gov/environment/wm/recycle/pubs/e-waste\\_2.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/wm/recycle/pubs/e-waste_2.pdf)

If your household decides to recycle, there are private companies that also offer to recycle computers and televisions. This is an important decision. Before you pay a company to recycle your computer or television, ask how the equipment is managed and recycled. Many environmental experts discourage exporting electronics waste out of the country. Improper disposal poses potential risks to human health and the environment.

This advisory provides recommendations and guidelines for the proper reuse, recycling and disposal of computers and televisions in South Carolina.

Electronics waste poses a potential risk to human health and the environment. Electronics are one of the largest known sources of dangerous heavy metals in the waste stream. Computer monitors and televisions have cathode ray tubes (CRTs), which may contain four to eight pounds of lead. Clearly, this waste must be properly managed.

### If you are a business...

Businesses should not throw away computers and other electronic equipment and must follow all state and federal regulations regarding the proper management of electronics waste. Call DHEC's Division of Compliance and Enforcement at 803-896-4136 for information on applicable hazardous waste regulations. Generally, businesses have four options.

1. Donate the equipment to an organization for reuse (e.g., non-profits, schools and churches).
2. Recycle it.
3. Dispose of it as a hazardous waste.
4. Dispose of it as a non-hazardous waste if it can be proven the equipment is not hazardous through a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test or through Knowledge of Process (KOP). KOP means the business has data or other information from the manufacturer that the components will not be hazardous if properly disposed. Keep all records.

If your business decides to recycle, ask the recycler these questions:

- How long has the recycler been in business? Can the recycler provide business references?
- How is the material managed? How does the recycler handle the demanufacture and final disposal of all components and hazardous materials? Is any equipment exported? If so, where and what happens to the equipment?
- Does the recycler verify data destruction?

Improperly managed electronics waste can be a business liability. If a business chooses a collector/recycler who improperly manages or disposes of electronics waste, the business (the generator of the waste) may be liable for cleanup. According to state and federal regulations, hazardous waste generators are responsible for final disposition of hazardous waste. Businesses should give as much thought to the selection of a collector/recycler of electronics waste as they would give to any other hazardous waste collector or recycler.

## S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

### E-WASTE

The sheer amount of electronic equipment that we buy, depend on, enjoy and then discard has resulted in a growing environmental challenge – electronic waste or E-Waste.

E-Waste is one of the fastest rising waste streams in the nation. Each year hundreds of thousands of computers,

### CATHODE RAY TUBES AND ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) promotes the safe recycling and disposal of cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and other electronic equipment. This publication is designed to assist households and businesses in determining proper management options.

### WHY ARE CRTs AN ISSUE?

CRTs are the main component that produces the image you see on a television or computer monitor.



### MANAGEMENT OF CRTs

The proper management of CRTs and other electronics waste is critical.

Households should check with their local government for information on the proper management of computer monitors and televisions. (Visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html)) Residents can also make changes in their purchasing habits by buying products that are designed for recycling or recycling properly managed their E-Waste. For more information on electronics recycling options, visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/pubs.html) or call 1-800-768-4136.

Businesses must follow state and local regulations regarding the proper management of computer monitors, televisions and other electronic equipment. For reuse (e.g., non-profits, schools and churches) or disposal of it as hazardous waste through a Toxicity

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

1-800-768-7348 • [www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle)

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# Manufacturer/Retailer Take Back Programs

Apple Sony Lexmark Sam's Club  
Best Buy Staples  
Circuit City Gateway  
Dell Samsung  
LG Costco IBM  
Lenovo Epson Office Depot  
Hewlett Packard Toshiba

# S.C. Local Government Collection Programs



# Digital Television Conversion

- February 17, 2009
- Several reasons for change
- Most consumers will not be affected
  - Cable service – OK
  - Satellite service – OK
  - Analog sets with digital tuners – OK

# Digital Television Conversion

- Analog sets connected to antennas – need to take action
  - Purchase digital converter box
  - Subscribe to cable or satellite service
  - Purchase TV with built-in digital tuner

# Digital Television Conversion

- Congress established the TV Converter Box Coupon Program
- Up to two \$40 coupons per household
- Coupons available until March 31, 2009



# Digital Television Conversion

For more information ...

[www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)

or

[www.dtvanswers.com](http://www.dtvanswers.com)

# More Information

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1-800-768-7348



South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control